THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Under the National River Conservation Plan, proposals received from Himachal Pradesh are as follows:—

(i) A proposal amounting to Rs. 78.60 lakhs for assessment of pollution load in river Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh received in 1994.

(ii) A proposal amounting to Rs. 78.41 crores for pollution abatement in 11 towns along river Beas received in 2000.

The proposal for river Sutlej could not be undertaken as the water quality of the river stretch in Himachal Pradesh was within the prescribed standards. For river Beas, the Government of Himachal Pradesh was asked to prepare Detailed Project Reports with firm costs and following an integrated approach with 70:30 cost sharing between the Central and the State Government. During the Tenth Plan, Government will take up works in various States depending upon the prioritization and availability of funds. No proposal either for Yamuna river or for revival of Rivalsar lake has been received from the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Plantation programmes in Orissa

381. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how much funds have been provided to Orissa Government after the Super Cyclone, to take up plantation work on the coastal belt and what amount has been utilised, till now, by the State Government;

(b) whether 25 MLAs of Orissa have written to take up plantation work by a private agency, with accountability, and the bill may be paid after survival of trees; and

(c) if so, what decision has been taken in this regard by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SURI T. R. BAALU): (a) A sum of Rs.607.24 lakhs has been provided to Orissa till date which has been fully utilised by the State Government for coastal shelter belt plantation in the State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Clearance to environmental projects in Assam

382. SHRI DWIJENDRA NATH SHARMAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects from Assam Government for getting environmental clearance pending with the Central Government;

(b) the details of specific reasons for delay in giving the environmental clearance, project-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) There are no projects of Government of Assam pending for environmental clearance.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Illegal encroachments on forests land

383. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been number of cases reported of illegal encroachments on forests lands in the country, despite Supreme Court order issued in 1996;

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Government to tackle this problem;

(c) whether the Government realize this as the main cause of animal species becoming extinct; and

(d) if so, what plan Government would draw to tackle this problem in future?